

**In the Specification**

Under the section entitled "Description of Example Embodiments," please amend the paragraph starting at page 6, line 20 as follows:

In the illustrated embodiment, the first ring 16 is a counterclockwise ring in which traffic is transmitted in a counterclockwise direction. The second ring 18 is a ~~counterclockwise~~ ring in which traffic is transmitted in a ~~counterclockwise~~ direction. Span A comprises the portion of the counterclockwise ring 16 and ~~counterclockwise~~ ring 18 between ADN 100d and ADN 100a. Span B comprises the portion of the counterclockwise ring 16 and the ~~counterclockwise~~ ring 18 between ADN 100a and ADN 100b. Span C comprises the portion of the counterclockwise ring 16 and the ~~counterclockwise~~ ring 18 between ADNs 100b and 100c. Span D comprises the portion of the counterclockwise ring 16 and the ~~counterclockwise~~ ring 18 between ADN 100c and ADN 100d.

Under the section entitled "Description of Example Embodiments," please amend the paragraph starting at page 7, line 16 as follows:

In addition, as described in more detail below, rings 16 and 18 each have termini in one of the ADNs 100, such that the rings 16 and 18 are "open" rings. That is, the rings 16 and 18 do not form a continuous transmission path around network 10 such that traffic does not continue and/or include an obstruction on a ring past a full circuit of the network 10. The opening in rings 16 and 18 terminates, and thus removes channels at the terminal points. Thus, after traffic of a channel is transmitted to each ADN 100 in the counterclockwise and/or ~~counterclockwise~~ rings 16 and 18 by the combined ADNs 100, the traffic is removed from rings 16 and 18. This prevents interference of each channel with itself.